(c) if so, what is the outcome of the visit;

(d) to what extent Government have been able to get orders from the NRIs in Gulf countries to invest in India in its power sector; and

(e) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been approved; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keen interest was expressed by private investors in Oman & U.A.E. in private sector power development in India.

(d) No Specific proposal has been received so far.

(e) Does not arise.

Quality of Coal Supplied for Andhra Power Project

2039. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Thermal Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh are suffering from the supply of inadequate and inferior quality of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures are contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The three thermal power stations of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board namely Kothagudem, Ramagundam 'B' and Vijayawada have not suffered any generation loss for want of coal during the year 1992-93 or during April-June, 1993. There have, however, been some complaints of receipts of inferior quality as also of coal mixed with extraneous materials.

(c) Supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal is monitored regularly by a high level committee of representatives of concerned departments and necessary remedial action taken wherever necessary.

Collusion of Departmental Staff in Energy Theft

2040. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority in its recent report, has diagnosed energy theft as the main cause of transmission losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that almost 24 per cent of the power fed into the grid is lost in transmission;

(c) whether despite theft of power being a cognizable offence under law, tampering of meters and drawals without meters are still increasing; and

(d) if so, whether Government would ensure the system to be fool proof and also impose severe punishment to the colluding departmental staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Power theft is only one of the reasons for Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses.

(b) The T&D losses in the country have been estimated at 22.83% for the year 1991-92.

(c) and (d) T&D losses are computed by taking difference of energy sent out and energy billed to ultimate consumers in a system/utility. The information regarding T&D losses due to theft of power by way of tampering of meters and drawals without meters is not being assessed separately.

Comprehensive guidelines have been issued by the Central Electricity Authority to power utilities for reduction of T&D losses. These include inter-alia: conducting of energy audit or identifying the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installation of tamper-proof meter boxes, intensifying surprise raids and launching prosecution against the person indulging in theft of energy, etc.